

## OPINION 1764

### *Anas arcuata* Horsfield, 1824 (currently *Dendrocygna arcuata*; Aves, Anseriformes): specific name conserved

#### Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
  - (a) it is hereby ruled that the specific name *arcuata* Horsfield, 1824, as published in the binomen *Anas arcuata*, is to be treated as the specific name of a then new nominal species;
  - (b) all previous fixations of type specimen for the nominal species *Anas javanica* Horsfield, 1821 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 1880.1.1.4742 in the collections at Tring of the Natural History Museum, London, is designated as the lectotype;
  - (c) all previous fixations of type specimen for the nominal species *Anas arcuata* Horsfield, 1824 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 1880.1.1.2436 in the collections at Tring of the Natural History Museum, London, is designated as the lectotype.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *javanica* Horsfield, 1821, as published in the binomen *Anas javanica* and as defined by the lectotype designated in (1)(b) above;
  - (b) *arcuata* Horsfield, 1824, as published in the binomen *Anas arcuata* and as defined by the lectotype designated in (1)(c) above.

#### History of Case 2746

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Anas arcuata* Horsfield, 1824 was originally received from Dr G.F. Mees (then of the *Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands*) in November 1989. Dr Mees wrote in 1991 that, following his retirement, he did not have ready access to the literature and no longer wished to pursue the case; the Commission Secretariat therefore did not put it forward in his name. The case was published in BZN 48: 319–321 (December 1991) and notice was sent to appropriate journals.

Prof Walter J. Bock (Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) of the International Ornithological Congress, *Columbia University, New York, N. Y., U.S.A.*) reported on support from members of SCON to conserve the name *Anas arcuata* and to designate a lectotype. He noted: 'For well over 100 years ornithologists have consistently used the names *Dendrocygna javanica* (Horsfield, 1821) and *D. arcuata* (Horsfield, 1824) for two species of ducks despite the fact that their nomenclatural history has included errors ... No doubts exist that when Horsfield (1821) proposed the name *javanica* he had a composite type series including specimens of species now recognized as *Dendrocygna javanica* and *D. arcuata*. Moreover, when Horsfield (1824) published the name *arcuata* it was clearly meant as a replacement name for his earlier *javanica* (cf. Mees, 1989). After Blyth (1865) pointed out that the type series of Horsfield contained two species ornithologists used the two Horsfield names for each of the species'. Prof Bock added that Dr David Holyoak, a member of SCON, had examined the proposed lectotypes of *javanica* and *arcuata* and had verified that they are specimens of the two species with which these

two names have been long associated. Another SCON member, Dr Richard Schodde, had discussed the case.

Prof Bock wrote that he and some members of SCON did not agree with the procedure adopted in the application and did not consider that it should have been put forward by the Secretariat rather than in the name of Dr Mees. [This was done for the reason stated above (with explanation in the footnote on BZN 48: 319) since applications are published on behalf of the zoological community as a whole].

The application was submitted on the basis of setting aside Article 72e of the Code. The Commission was asked (proposal (1) on BZN 48: 320) to use its plenary powers to rule that the specific name of *A. arcuata* Horsfield, 1824 is no longer to be treated as a replacement name for (and therefore a junior objective synonym of) *A. javanica* Horsfield, 1821. Approval of this proposal would allow the designation of a lectotype for *A. arcuata* (proposal (2)).

Since the nominal species *A. javanica*, as published by Horsfield (1821), was composite a lectotype was designated in the application (para. 6). Prof Bock proposed that the specific name of *A. javanica* be placed on the Official List, in addition to that of *A. arcuata*. This proposal was added to those in para. 7 and included on the voting paper.

#### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1993 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 320, together with the placement of the specific name of *Anas javanica* Horsfield, 1821 on the Official List of Specific Names. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 27: Bayer, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Bock.

No vote was received from Uéno.

Bock voted against because he did not agree with the procedure that had been followed (see above). Ride commented: 'I return a conditional vote because, although I support the intention of the application, the outcome remains vulnerable without additional action under the plenary powers. Since the lectotype selected by the applicant is not protected by the plenary powers it could be supplanted by a lectotype properly designated prior to the date of the application'.

To secure completely the ruling in this case the Commission was asked to set aside any earlier type fixation for either the nominal species *A. javanica* or *A. arcuata*; under Article 72e a lectotype fixation for *A. arcuata* would have applied to *A. javanica* also. A supplementary proposal to this end was sent to the members of the Commission for a one-month vote in December 1993; 22 Commissioners voted in favour and none against.

#### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*arcuata*, *Anas*, Horsfield, 1824, in: *Zoological researches in Java, and the neighbouring islands*, part 8, pl. [65].

*javanica*, *Anas*, Horsfield, 1821, *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*, 13(1): 199.